

## MISSOURI NEWS BRIEFS.

Columbia—Colonel W. F. Switzer has been elected to the only honorary life membership in the Missouri University club. Colonel Switzer is the author of historical works, among which is Switzer's History of Missouri University.

Gallatin—Gaul and Ashbrook, dealers in general merchandise at Jamesport in Eastern Daviess county, have made a voluntary assignment, in order to dissolve partnership and quit business. The liabilities are about \$9,000; assets about \$20,000.

St. Louis—The Democratic state committee has decided on dates and places of holding conventions as follows: State convention at Jefferson City, July 19; delegate convention at Joplin, June 29; judicial convention at St. Joseph, June 21.

Troy—The public schools of this city have been closed on account of an epidemic of scarlet fever which is raging here. Several schools in the rural districts have also been closed on account of the disease. These deaths from it have already been reported.

St. Joseph—Jerse Gurkey, a 16-year-old boy, was beheaded by a Rock Island locomotive in South St. Joseph Wednesday. He jumped off a Burlington engine to the Rock Island tracks and was caught before he could get away. He was the only support of a widowed mother.

Mendon—Miss Edna Whisman committed suicide near Dean Lake, where she was working, by swallowing poison after returning from prayer meeting. She told the doctor she had no regrets. She was sixteen years old. A love affair is supposed to have been the cause for the deed.

Cameron—The inter-collegiate oratorical contest of Missouri will occur here March 4. The committee announces that most of the leading colleges in the state will be represented and that 400 students will attend. The successful orator will represent Missouri in the interstate contest.

St. Joseph—At the annual meeting of the St. Joseph Union Depot Company Wednesday, it was decided to build sheds over the depot platform in this city at once. This matter has been under discussion for nearly ten years, but this is the first decisive action taken by the company.

Jefferson City—The supreme court has affirmed the decision of the lower court of Kansas City, giving judgment against the Kansas City, Pittsburg & Gulf railroad for \$10,000 to Judge J. McD. Trimble for fees for one year during the time the railroad was in the hands of a receiver in 1899.

St. Joseph—Horticulturists from all parts of the Platte purchase have reported to a local seed firm that the peach crop will be very short in this section on account of the recent cold weather. The warm days preceding the freeze swelled the buds and now they are frozen. Fruit men will not promise even a half crop.

Maryville—John Gibson, a farm hand, crawled a mile Tuesday over the frozen and rough ground with his leg broken before he secured medical attention. He is a farm hand and fell and broke his right leg while working in a field a mile away from the home of his employer, Mrs. Isaac Resicker, near Skidmore.

Lamar—James Burgett 17 years old, a press feeder in the office of the Lamar Sentinel, was burned to death Wednesday evening. An explosion of gasoline covered Burgett with burning oil. He rushed into the street, his clothing in flames and, before they could be extinguished, he was mortally burned. The loss on the building was \$2,000.

Jefferson City—Margaret Hamon, of Platte county, won a will suit in division No. 1 of the Missouri supreme court, which gives her \$20,000. This suit was instituted by Nelson Hamon and others against Margaret Hamon to break the will of John Hamon, her husband. John Hamon was a bachelor 83 years of age, when he married a woman 25 years old.

Columbia—The agricultural department of Missouri University is in receipt of an invitation from the United States Department of Agriculture, asking the co-operation of the University in a series of cattle breeding experiments, in which 250 head of high grade steers will be used. Dr. F. B. Mumford will superintend the experiments, all of which will be carried on at the Missouri experimental station here.

Joplin—In addition to its present service the M., K. & T. railroad will put on a new passenger train between Joplin and Oklahoma City, that will run through the new Kansas oil regions. This train will run over the new line via Coffeyville, Kas., and Bartlesville, I. T., beginning next Sunday, when it will leave Joplin at 6:20 a. m., arriving at Oklahoma City at 4 o'clock in the evening. Thus the first day train service between this city and Oklahoma City will be inaugurated.

St. Louis—"Jim" Ray, once a figure in the sporting world here, a negro politician, reputed to have been the wealthiest negro here, was shot and killed Tuesday in a pistol fight in which thirty shots were fired, at the Falstaff club. His partner, John Arthur, is dying of wounds received in the fight. "Ed" Grimes, 28 years of age, proprietor of the Falstaff, a saloon, is under arrest. He is not wounded.

Mexico—Aaron McPike, the founder of Vandalia, this county, died Wednesday morning. He was 89 years, 10 months and 24 days old. His father, Edward McPike, fought in the revolutionary war. McPike had lived in Missouri more than sixty years. He was a mule dealer during the civil war and at one time the government owed him \$50,000, for which he had only the word of an officer. He was wealthy.

Joplin—Fire at ten o'clock Wednesday night destroyed the plant of the National Manufacturing company, entailing a loss of probably \$20,000. The damage to the Post Publishing company is \$2,000 and to the Windsor hotel, \$3,000. For a time the fire threatened an entire block in which is the Club theatre, which was filled by an audience attending "The Wizard of Oz." No one in the theatre learned of the fire until after the performance.

Trenton—Arrangements have been made for this city. The new institution will include the stock of both its components at par and will divide honors. The name of the Farmers' Exchange and the management and location of the American will be retained, the board of directors being evenly divided. W. O. Garvin will be president and L. M. Brown, cashier. President J. N. Ratliff and cashier J. S. Stevens will retire. The capital stock will be \$80,000.

St. Louis—Dr. Edward C. Runge, 47 years old, well known throughout the country as an alienist, for a number of years superintendent of the St. Louis hospital for the insane, died at his home Wednesday from pneumonia. He had been ill only six days. Dr. Runge was born in St. Petersburg, Russia, and received his medical education in the University of St. Petersburg. He came to St. Louis in 1883 and has since resided here. He was connected with a number of the alienist organizations of the country.

Kansas City—Judge Phillips, of the United States District Court, has rendered a decision in favor of Joseph Burnes, against the city of Brookfield, for \$3,750, with interest at six per cent, making a total of \$4,007.66. Burnes is a sewer and water works contractor, of Lincoln Neb. In 1902 he built a water system of thirty wells for the city of Brookfield, which were to have a capacity of half a million gallons of water per day. The city voted bonds to pay for the work, but Burnes alleges, after he had completed the work, they refused to pay him.

Fayette—"Aunt" Nancy Ann Mitchell, probably the oldest white woman in the state, died at the home of her grandson, the city marshal, Thursday morning. She was 103 years and 9 days old. "Aunt" Nancy was born near Knoxville, Tenn., and moved to Missouri with her husband more than seventy years ago. They first settled in what is now Boone Lick township, Howard county. "Aunt" Nancy's husband served in the war of 1812 and the Mexican war. She survived all her twelve children. She was an inveterate smoker. Until a few days ago she was in possession of all her faculties and took part in the birthday celebration at her home last week on the occasion of her one hundred and third birthday anniversary. "Aunt" Nancy had never ridden on a train. She was ill only a few hours. The funeral will be attended by many of her old neighbors who were born when she was a middle aged woman.

Not gained—The fisherman's credit.

## MATHEMATICAL PUZZLERS.

### Problems That Have Taxed the Brains of Ancients and Moderns.

Put down six and carry two—Gee! but this is hard to do! You can think and think and think. Till your brain is numb. I don't care what teacher says, I can't do this sum.

So sings the chorus in "Babies in Toyland," and many a breast feels a responsible thrill in the chord those words touch. For brains have ached over mathematics from these modern days of "How old is the Captain?" back to the time when the royal tutor Euclid explained to King Ptolemy that only by way of the birch rod and the multiplication table could even a princely young hopeful attain to geometry, for "there is no royal road to learning."

Those old Greeks were very fond of mathematical puzzles, and no doubt Socrates made young Alcibiades miserable by propounding to him some stickler about Apasias's age. Surely he knew of Achilles and the tortoise, for that was a favorite poser, and ran thus: Achilles runs ten times faster than the tortoise. He gives the tortoise 1,000 yards start and never overtakes him, for while Achilles goes 1,000 yards the tortoise goes 100; while Achilles covers the 100 yards, the tortoise goes 10; during the time Achilles goes 10 the tortoise goes 1; Achilles goes the one yard headway, and so on. Of course the fallacy is apparent in practice. But, said old Zeno, wherein does your theory err?

Another old time problem which was no doubt of great assistance in the days when decimating a people was a pleasant diversion practiced by conquerors consists in placing men around in a circle so that every ninth man is killed, the remainders shall be certain specified individuals. It is said that Josephus, the historian of the post-Biblical Jews, was responsible for one historic instance where this knowledge came in handy. Hegesippus tells the story, and though no one vouches for his veracity, yet "I tell the tale as 'twas told to me." Josephus and forty others took refuge in a cave after the capture of their city by the Romans. Josephus found, much to his chagrin, that thirty-nine of these patriots had determined to put themselves to death, rather than fall into "Gentile" hands. So the historian putting the best face possible on the matter, declared it was just the thing for them all to do, but such a matter should be attended to decently and in order. Let them all stand in a circle and slay every third man, the last remaining to commit suicide. This was agreed to. Now, where did the wily Josephus place himself and the man who was like-minded with him? Tradition tells us they were No. 16 and No. 31.

This same problem is usually stated in this form: A ship with fifteen Turks and fifteen Christians encountered a storm, and the pilot declared that to save ship and crew it was necessary to sacrifice half the passengers. Crews have often thought in a similar way in modern times. It is said, though propitiation of the gods has not been the alleged cause. The passengers were placed in a circle and every ninth man was thrown overboard, beginning at a certain point. The question propounded by the devout originator of this form of the problem was how to save all the Christians. As a matter of fact, no general rule is possible in this class of problem. The answer has to be attained by counting. In this case the Christians must be Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17, 20, 21, 25, 28 and 29.

For the benefit of any who may care to spring this upon friends the following mnemonic doggerel is subjoined to help them remember the positions of the rescued Christians:

From numbers aid and art  
Never will fame depart,  
In this stands for 1, e for 2, i for 3  
o for 4, and u for 5. Possibly the interpretation may be considered quite a problem in its way.

Old Euclid may have helped brighten up that very Prince Ptolemy's wits who objected to mathematics with a problem which has come down to us apparently in his own writing: "A mule and a donkey were going to market laden with wheat. The mule said, 'If you gave me one measure I should carry twice as much as you; but if I gave you one we should bear equal burdens.' Tell me, learned geometrician, what were their burdens?" The mule had seven and the donkey five measures.

A medieval mathematician has a famous collection of puzzles whose introduction into his treatise he defended by saying that it was a common custom to suppose mathematical

"sticklers" at dessert by way of amusing the company. He gives several directions for finding the number thought of, one example of which will suffice:

Take a number, multiply it by 5, add 6, multiply by 4, add 9 to the product, multiply the sum by 5, and tell the result. The puzzle giver must then subtract 165 from this result, and the remainder, divided by 100, is the number originally thought of.

Thus, suppose the original number is 10. Fifty is the first result, 56 is the second, 224 is the third, 233 is the fourth, the result is 1165. If from this 165 is subtracted and the remainder divided by 100, it will give the correct result.

An amusing variant of the fox, the goose, and the bag of corn is given by this same old Venetian. "There are three men, young, handsome, and gallant, who have three beautiful ladies for wives; all are jealous, as well the husbands of the wives as the wives of the husbands. They find on the bank of a river over which they have to pass a small boat which can hold no more than two persons. How can they pass so as to give rise to no jealousy?"

Let us call the couples A, B, and C. First A and B go across, leaving Mrs. C to guard her husband against the blandishments of Mrs. A and Mrs. B. Then B comes back and gets C. B remains and C comes back for Mrs. C. On one shore there are now A, B, C, and Mrs. C, while on the other are Mrs. A and Mrs. B. Mrs. C crosses over and gets Mrs. B, and on their return A goes over for his wife. Is this way husband and wife have never been separated, unless they were either with their own sex or else with man and wife.

As a relic of those days of "myrrh, spice, and frankincense" comes the problem of the vase of balsam. "Three men robbed a gentleman of a vase containing twenty-four ounces of balsam. While running away they met in a wood with a glass seller, of whom in a great hurry they purchased three vessels. On reaching a place of safety they wish to divide the booty, but find that their vessels hold 5, 11 and 13 ounces respectively. How can they divide the balsam into equal portions?"

This problem is solved by trial. For the vessels can hold 24, 13, 11 and 5 ounces.

They actually at first hold 24, 0, 0, and 0 ounces. First make them hold 0, 8, 11 and 5 ounces; second, make them hold 16, 8, 0, and 4 ounces; third make them hold 16, 0, 8, and 0 ounces; fourth, make them hold 3, 13, 8, and 0 ounces; fifth, make them hold 8, 8, 8, and 0 ounces.

Most amusing are the problems where the answers seem obvious, and the unwary fall into the trap spread for heedless feet. Such a one is the case of the tailor who has forty yards of cloth in one piece, and cuts off a yard a day. How long will it be before all the yards are cut?

Or another one: A bottle and its cork cost \$1.05, and the bottle costs \$1 more than the cork. How much does the cork cost? The answer most obvious is 5 cents, which answer is, of course, wrong.

One that is not quite so well known is the following: Two clerks are engaged, one at a salary which begins at the rate of \$100 a year, with a yearly rise of \$20; the other at a salary commencing at the same rate, but with a half-yearly raise of \$5. In each case payments are made half yearly. Which of them has the larger income? Who is not tempted to say the former?

Yet the latter is the correct answer. For in the first year the first clerk receives \$100, but the second clerk receives \$50 and \$55, which amounts to \$105 in the year. The first clerk in the second year gets, to be sure, \$120; but No. 2 gets \$60 for the first half year and \$65 for the second, or \$125 in all.

### Giant Skeleton Found.

Workmen engaged in digging gravel at Winnemucca, Nev., the other day uncovered at a depth of about 12 feet a lot of bones, part of the skeleton of a gigantic human being.

Dr. Samuels examined them and pronounced them to be bones of a man who must have been nearly 11 feet in height.

The metacarpal bones measure four and a half inches in length and are large in proportion. A part of the ulna was found and in its complete form would have been between 17 and 18 inches in length.

The remainder of the skeleton is being searched for.—New York World.

The people who work in the mint don't believe in free coinage.

## ANCIENT INDIAN RELICS.

### A Treaty With Great Britain and Mysterious Plates.

According to Charles Gibson, Indian journalist of Enfanla, the most sacred relics of the Creek or Muskogee tribe are in the keeping of the To-kaparchee clan, says the Kansas City Journal. One of them is the treaty made between the Indians and Great Britain in the time of George II. When a custodian of the relic is dying he appoints his successor by will to the brass or copper plates that To-kaparchee own. These plates are hard to describe, as they are kept in a very sacred vault where none are allowed to enter except the medicine man or some old chief.

The history of these plates is as follows: One old medicine man who had been noted for being the greatest among the Creeks, before dying, told some of the other medicine men that so many days after the day of his death, if they would meet him on the highest mountain peak—naming the mountain—he would bring them something very sacred and it would strengthen their medicine and add to their happiness. The medicine men then appointed a day and waited. When the last stick was thrown away each wended his way to the top of the mountain. They waited long and well. When the sun became low in the west a great snake came from the west and darkened the country around about the mountain. The medicine men were frightened, but stood their ground. Then came claps of thunder and flashes of lightning that almost blinded the old men. Then a dark cloud appeared, and all at once there appeared out of the dark cloud a bundle, which was handed to the old men. The hands holding the bundle were all that could be seen, and resembled the hands of the old medicine man who had died. As soon as the package containing the plates was delivered the cloud moved away and there was a clear sky. The old men took their charge back to their square house and hid it until the time of their annual celebration, or green corn dance, when the plates were introduced into their festivities. That is some thousand years ago, and they are still in possession of the Creeks.

The custodians of these plates are what are called the wild clan. There are a great many of these plates, and the largest ones have characters of some kind on them. They are exhibited only on state occasions, once a year. Each one has a beautiful sound or ring. It is said, when they are used in the dance, making sweet music. After the dance they are taken out, one to each man, and are secured very bright and placed away until the next year. It is said that in the polishing process the work hands are very cautious, as it is known that the least slip will result in a sure loss of the plate, as it is said the plates are supposed to be part turtle or fish, as they came to the Creeks through a cloud or mist and will dart here and there if let loose in the water, and will get away.

## SYSTEM IN PRONUNCIATION.

### Difficulties That Interfere With It in Practice.

Prof. Thomas R. Lounsbury's article in Harper's Magazine for September describes some interesting points on the much mooted subject of English pronunciation: "All efforts to have the accent fall on the first syllable of 'inquiry,' 'opponent,' 'museum'—and these efforts have been frequent and long-continued," says Prof. Lounsbury, "have so far invariably resulted in disaster. No authority of repute recognizes 'inquiry,' 'opponent,' 'mu-seum' such pronunciations always beget a feeling of pity or pain in the hearts of those who deem themselves orthoepically pure. Furthermore, in every stream of tendency there are occasional eddies. So here, now and then, the accent moves forward toward the end of the word, instead of backward toward its beginning. 'Confessor' and 'horizon' may be given as instances. In both of these accent once generally rested upon the first syllable. But more remarkable than either is 'July.' Every student of early poetry, especially of our dramatic poetry, becomes aware that this word was usually, if not invariably, pronounced 'July.' So it was continued to be down to the latter part of the eighteenth century, and to some extent later. Bailey and Johnson both place the accent upon the first syllable. In doing so they were in accord with the general practice of the orthoepists of the time. Indeed, the only early authorization I have chanced to meet of the present pronunciation is in Pardon's revision of Dyche's dictionary, which came out in 1758."